

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Gregory E. Sancoff et al.  
Serial No.: 09/705,997  
Filing Date: 11/03/00  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PLACING  
MULTIPLE SUTURES  
Group Art Unit No.: 3765  
Examiner: Amy B. Vanatta  
Attorney's Docket No.: ONUX-6

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please replace the current reference to related applications with the following new reference:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Applications

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/705,997, filed 11/03/2000 by Gregory E. Sancoff et al. for APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PLACING MULTIPLE SUTURES (Attorney's Docket No. ONUX-6), which in turn claims benefit of prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/163,680, filed 11/05/1999 by Gregory E. Sancoff, John T. Rice and Frederic P. Field. The above-identified patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference. --

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